

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A photoelectric conversion element, comprising:
 - a casing; and
 - a stacked body enclosed within the casing,
 - wherein the stacked body comprises:
 - a working electrode having a porous oxide semiconductor layer having a sensitizing dye supported on a surface thereof;
 - a counter electrode provided on a side of the porous oxide semiconductor layer of the working electrode facing the working electrode; and
 - an electrolyte layer ~~disposed on~~ at least a part of which is formed between the working electrode and the counter electrode, and
 - wherein an upper surface and a lower surface of the stacked body contacts directly or indirectly an inner surface of the casing, the portion of the casing at least contacting the working electrode being made of a material having an optical characteristic of transmitting sunlight.
2. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 1, further comprising an elastic member provided between the counter electrode and the casing.

3. (currently amended): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 1, further comprising first and second conductive bodies each having one end and another end, wherein the counter electrode is connected to the one end of the first conductive body so that the first conductive body is routed within an inside of the casing without contacting a side surface of the stacked body, and the other end of the first conductive body extends outside of the casing, and

wherein the working electrode is connected to the one end of the second conductive body so that the second conductive body is routed within an inside of the casing without contacting the side surface of the stacked body, and the other end of the second conductive body extends outside of the casing.

4. (currently amended): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 3, wherein the other ends of the first and second conductive bodies extend outside of the casing from ~~the~~ a side portion of the casing.

5. (currently amended): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 3, wherein the other ends of the first and second conductive bodies extend outside of the casing from ~~the~~ a bottom portion of the casing.

6. (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a photoelectric conversion element, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a casing comprising a housing body having an inner bottom surface and a lid body;

providing a working electrode having a porous oxide semiconductor layer having a sensitizing dye supported on a surface thereof;

forming an electrolyte layer by filling ~~a liquid or gel~~ an electrolyte on the porous oxide semiconductor layer of the working electrode;

placing the counter electrode on the inner bottom surface of the housing body of the casing;

overlaying the working electrode on the counter electrode so that the counter electrode contacts the electrolyte layer to form a stacked body;

placing the lid body of the casing ~~on the working electrode~~ over the working electrode; and

applying a load in a direction orthogonal to the surface of the stacked body from an outside of the stacked body to seal the casing.

7. (currently amended): A photoelectric conversion element, comprising:

a housing body having an inner bottom surface; and

a stacked body,

wherein the stacked body comprises:

a working electrode having a porous oxide semiconductor layer having a sensitizing dye supported on a surface thereof;

a counter electrode provided on a side of the porous oxide semiconductor layer of the working electrode facing the working electrode; and

an electrolyte layer ~~disposed on~~ at least a part of which is formed between the working electrode and the counter electrode, and

wherein the stacked body is enclosed within the housing body so that the counter electrode contacts directly or indirectly the inner bottom surface of the housing body, and the housing body is sealed using the working electrode.

8. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 7, wherein the working electrode comprises a first substrate, and the first substrate is made of a material having both an optical characteristic to transmit sunlight and a resistance to heat.

9. (currently amended): A method for manufacturing a photoelectric conversion element, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

providing a casing comprising a housing body having an inner bottom surface;

providing a working electrode having a porous oxide semiconductor layer having a sensitizing dye supported on a surface thereof;

forming an electrolyte layer by filling ~~a liquid or gel~~ an electrolyte on the porous oxide semiconductor layer of the working electrode;

placing the counter electrode on the inner bottom surface of the housing body of the casing so that the counter electrode contacts directly or indirectly the inner bottom surface of the housing body;

overlaying the working electrode on the counter electrode so that the counter electrode contacts the electrolyte layer to form a stacked body;

placing the working electrode over the casing; and

sealing the working electrode to the housing body using one of a laser method or an adhesion method to fabricate the casing.

10. (currently amended): A photoelectric conversion element, comprising:

a casing; and

a plurality of stacked bodies,

wherein the plurality of stacked bodies are sealed within the casing while being arranged, and each of the stacked bodies comprises:

a working electrode;

a counter electrode; and

an electrolyte layer sandwiched between the working electrode and the counter electrode,

wherein the casing comprises a back plate; and a frame body provided on an outer periphery portion of the back plate,

wherein the frame body comprises a side wall portion and a plurality of window frame ~~portion~~portions, each of the plurality of window frame portions corresponding to a respective one of the plurality of stacked bodies, and the plurality of window frame ~~portion~~portions are provided facing the back plate and ~~presses~~press the ~~stacked body~~plurality of stacked bodies in a direction of the back plate, and

wherein each of the plurality of stacked body~~bodies~~ comprises a current collecting wiring portion, and each of the plurality of window frame~~portion-portions~~ is provided in a region corresponding to a position of the current collecting wiring portion of a corresponding one of the plurality of stacked bodies~~the stacked body~~.

11. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 10, wherein the side wall portion is detachable from the back plate.

12. (currently amended): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of window frame~~portion-portions~~ is detachable from the side wall portion.

13. (currently amended): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 10, further comprising an elastic member provided between the plurality of stacked body~~bodies~~ and the back plate.

14. (currently amended): A photoelectric conversion element, comprising:
a stacked body; and
a casing that encloses the stacked body,
wherein the stacked body comprises:
a working electrode;
a counter electrode; and

an electrolyte layer formed between the working electrode and the counter electrode,

wherein the casing comprises a frame body that covers the stacked body and a lid body that fixes the stacked body to the frame body, and the frame body covers a region of the working electrode corresponding to a position where ~~the~~a conductive body is formed.

15. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 14, wherein the conductive body is provided on a periphery of the working electrode.

16. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 14, wherein the lid body is detachably secured to the frame body.

17. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 14, further comprising an elastic member provided between the counter electrode and the lid body.

18. (original): A photoelectric conversion element, comprising:
a stacked body; and
a casing that encloses the stacked body,
wherein the stacked body comprises:
a working electrode;
a counter electrode; and

an electrolyte layer formed between the working electrode and the counter electrode,

wherein the casing comprises a main body that covers the stacked body and a lid body that fixes the stacked body to the main body, and the lid body is detachably secured to the main body.

19. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 18, further comprising an elastic member provided between the counter electrode and the casing.

20. (original): A photoelectric conversion element, comprising:
a stacked body; and
a casing that encloses the stacked body,
wherein the stacked body comprises:
a working electrode;
a counter electrode; and
an electrolyte layer formed between the working electrode and the counter electrode,
wherein the casing is made of a main body that covers the stacked body, and the working electrode is detachably secured to the main body.

21. (original): The photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 20, further comprising an elastic member provided between the counter electrode and the casing.

22. (new): The method for manufacturing a photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 6, wherein the electrolyte is a liquid electrolyte.

23. (new): The method for manufacturing a photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 6, wherein the electrolyte is a gel electrolyte.

24. (new): The method for manufacturing a photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 11, wherein the electrolyte is a liquid electrolyte.

25. (new): The method for manufacturing a photoelectric conversion element as recited in claim 11, wherein the electrolyte is a gel electrolyte.